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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,385	12/14/2001	Douglas Paul Allard	11533.0012.CPUS05	6843

7590 04/13/2005

Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP  
750 Bering Drive  
Houston, TX 77057

EXAMINER
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PECHHOLD, ALEXANDRA K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/017,385	ALLARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Alexandra K Pechhold	3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/9/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gannon (US 6,485,639).**

Regarding claim 12, Gannon discloses an apparatus, comprising:

(a) a filtration device, seen as filtration media (40), dimensioned to fit within an inlet and obstructing at least a portion of said inlet, as seen in Fig. 1 (see also Col 6, lines 32-37);

(b) a filtration device support, seen as container (20), dimensioned and adapted to cooperatively engage with said inlet and with said filtration device to substantially maintain said filtration device in a pre-selected position within said inlet, as seen in Fig. 1; and

(c) an adjustable deflector ring, seen as top plate (21) (see Col 6, lines 44-53), connected to said filtration device support, said adjustable deflector ring containing at least one flow control wall along at least one outer edge, seen as the external or internal lips (23, 26), whereby said adjustable deflector ring is adjusted via the permanent removal of material, since Gannon discloses that the top plate (21) is separate and therefore can be removed (Col 6, lines 44-49). Gannon fails to disclose that the

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dimensions of said adjustable deflector ring may be easily adjusted to fit within a particular catch basin. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the top plate (21) of Gannon to be easily adjusted to fit within a particular catch basin, since Gannon states in column 6, lines 35-40 that container (20) is sized to fit most standard drain cavities or piping having diameters of about 2-10 inches, and designed to easily slid into the existing drain or pipe, and furthermore, it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954).

Regarding claim 13, the permanent removal of material can include the removal of one or more flow control walls, if the top plate (21) is removed, since it is separable.

Regarding claim 14, the least one flow control wall remains on said adjustable deflector ring after the removal of one or more flow control walls, if just one of either the external or internal lips (23, 26) is removed.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims in order to have the previously indicated allowable claims 12-14 to proceed to issue. But upon further search and consideration of the prior art, the allowability of these claims is being withdrawn due to a new grounds of rejection as noted above.

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**Conclusion**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexandra Pechhold whose telephone number is (571) 272-6994. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs. from 8:00am to 5:30pm and alternating Fridays from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached on (571) 272-6998. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

  
Thomas B. Will  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3600

AKP  
4/8/05